technical matters has been sought, we have promptly given it to the States.

श्री अश्विनी कुमार : माननीया उप-सभापति महोदय, सिंचाई की योजनाओं के साथ प्रदेश सरकार, राज्य सरकार और और केन्द्र के बीच में जो फुटबाल का खेल होता है वह बहुत वर्षों से देख रहे हैं जिसके कारण सिंचाई योजनाओं को बहुत तकलीफ हो रही है । अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि हमने कुछ मापदंड दिये, प्रांतीय सरकारें, राज्य सरकारें उन मापदंडों के अनुसार काम नहीं कर रही हैं । मैं आपके माध्यम से एक सुझाव देना चाहूंगा, प्रश्न पूछने से पहले क्या मंत्री महोदय यह विचार करेंगे कि केन्द्र की ओर से एक तकनीकी आब-जर्वर स्टेट्स में भेजें, जोकि वहां से चिट्ठियां आने के पहले उसमें जितनी न्यूनतायें हों, वहीं निकाल दें और जो दिल्ली और भोपाल के बीच चिट्ठियां आने-जाने में वर्षों लगते हैं, उसमें कमी हो । एक मेरा यह सुझाव है ।

दूसरा प्रश्न जो में पूछना चाहता हू वह यह है कि मध्य प्रदेश में आपने 24 योजनायें तो शांत कर दी हैं, पर कितनी और योजनायें हैं जिनको आपने क्लियरेंस दिया है और उसके लिये कितना एमाउन्ट सैंक्शन किया है ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Madam, the honourable Member has referred to the comments being sent from Central Water Commission to the State Government and compared it to a football game. It is not a football game; it is not a game to score a goal over each other. If it is a game, it is a game to develop the country, and whatever necessary cooperation is expected from the Centre in respect of project formulations and technical advice needed is given promptly, whenever the State wants.

श्री अश्विनी कुमार : आपने मध्य प्रदेश में 24 प्रोजैक्टस तो बन्द कर दिये हैं, लेकिन वहां कितने प्रोजैक्टस चल रहे हैं, उनकी संख्या बता सकें तो बहुत कृपा होगी ।

श्री बी० शंकरानन्द : उसके बारे में तो मैंने पहले ही बता दिया है --

I have given this answer. At the moment, 11 major and five minor projects are under examination.

Checking of Foodgrains before lifting from the FCI Godowns

*263. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 833 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st July, 1987 and state:

(a) whether the Food and Civil Supplies staff check the quality of foodgrains in the F.C.I. godowns before these are lifted for the Fair Price Shop owners; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard, and if not, what are the reasons therefor and whether this practice is proposed to be started now?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Technical staff of Food Corporation of India checks the quality of foodgrains before issue. Staff of Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation posted at weighment points of FCI also make random checking of the quality of foodgrains before lifting. If any sub-standard stocks are detected these are not accepted for issue.

SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Madam, on 31st July 1987 an unstarred question, No. 833, was replied to by the honourable Minister. Of course, it being an unstarred question, the matter was not discussed in the House. Now this question which I am raising is just a sort of supplement to that question. Of course, in the answers given to that ques-

tion as well as to my question today, it has been said that the technical staff of the Food Corporation checks the quality of foodgrains and all that. But a survey which was made by the press and in respect of which an article was written by Shri Vichitra Sharma in *The Hindustan Times* dated 14th May 1987....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI J. P. GOYAL: The question is that third rate foodstuffs—sugar and foodgrains—are supplied, which is affecting and is going to affect the nation's health. It is mostly the poor people who purchase these rations. Higher people, riher people, purchase good quality goods. So, the health of the nation is also going down.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please ask your question.

SHRI J. P. GOYAL: The question is whether it is a fact that good quality foodstuffs are supplied to the ration shops situated in localities which are inhabited by richer people, higher people, and foodstuffs of substandard quality are supplied to the ration shops situated in localities which are inhabited by poor people. This is one question which I put to the honourable Minister.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Madam Deputy Chairman, the honourable Member has put his question and our reply is that no discrimination whatsoever is made in the supply of foodgrains to the shops in the different localities. One thing I might clarify—that the procedure for approval and the criterion for release, everything, is the same for all the godowns. It is true that there are certain localities which may be belonging to people who have better means—certain restricted areas—but in most of Delhi, even in the so-called richer localities, a large number of poor people live. It is not correct ot say that any discrimination is made, that better type of foodgrains, standard type of foodgrains are given to some people and worse are given to other people. The same type of foodgrains which are according to the standard prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, are given.

SHRI J. P. GOYAL: I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the article which I was referring to in the "Hindustan Times" dated the 14th of May, 1987, wherein some *mohallas* have been given. For example, I will just read only one sentence:

> "Random checking by this reporter showed that the ration shop at Bhagat Market near the vegetable sellers line had a sack of wheat mixed with black paddy grains. Model Basti ration shop No. 349 had sacks of rice which by no means could bee described as edible."

So, I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister to let him read this article. Just saying that random checking is being made and all that will not help. On paper it is being done. But the fact is that there is mixture of the good foodgrains with the bad foodgrains which are with the shopkeepers. What stand will the hon. Minister take further to check this state of affairs?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I am grateful to the hon. Member for pointing this out, and I am grateful

also to the correspondent of the "Hindustan Times" who wrote this. I might inform the hon. Member that I took immediate notice of this report myself, and I asked my Secretary to go into this question. He did call a meeting, and certain checkings were made. Going by the reporter, for example the shop number was mentioned as 349 somewhere. But no shop with that number existed there. An enquiry was made in regard to this. Strict instructions have been given to enforce most strictly and see that foodgrains which can be given according to the prescribed standards are only given and nothing else is given. Government did take notice of this. I myself took notice of the report and some enquiry was made in this.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like, through you, to ask the hon. Minister this. The foodgrains supplied by the FCI to the fair price shops are not of good quality. There are several evidences. Even the press report has come in the "Hindustan Times." But, when we look towards the rural areas, the foodgrains which are supplied under the NREP and the RIEGP are of the worst quality. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any incidence of corruption, whether the fair price shop dealers and the officials of the Food Corporation of India are having coordination in taking corruption and they are supplying to the customers bad quality of foodgrains? If so, what is the monitoring agency with the FCI to see that good quality of foodgrains are given to the fair price shops and they are given to the customers?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Now the instructions are that the release of the foodgrains whether for the schemes or for the fair price shops from the FCI godowns should be according to the specified standard. For that the arrangements are that the agencies who receive the foodgrains, are entitled to do random checking, sample checking. If they wish to check each bag, they can, check them. Further, the arrangements are that they can take sealed samples with them, and the fair price shops are supposed to keep sealed samples with the shops so that people can know. There have been cases where we did get complaints from various sources that the grains supplied by the Food Corporation were not satisfactory according to the recipients. Some enquiries were made, and in a number of cases in which the foodgrains which were issued were not found by the FCI to be of good quality, in those cases replacement was done, and in a number of cases action was also taken against the officials.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : माननीय खाद्य मंत्री बतायें की कृपा करें कि जब भारतीय खाद्य निगम जो अनाज या दूसरी चीजें इश्यू करता है तो क्या उसका टैकनीकल स्टाफ उसकी क्वालिटी और उसके वेट को चैक करने के बाद इश्यू करते हैं ? मैं सिर्फ देहली के बारे में नहीं पूछ रहा हूं वरन् सारे देश की बात पूछ रहा हूं ?

श्री एच० के० एल० भगत : माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, मैंने इस प्रश्न का उत्तर किसी हद तक दे दिया है । मैं उसे फिर दोहरा रहा हू कि सारे हिन्दुस्तान् में फूड कारपोरेशन को इंस्ट्रक्शन दिये गये हैं कि जो भी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट वहां पर सामान लेने जाते हैं उनको सेंपल दिये जायें और उसके अलावा भी यदि वे चाहें तो रेंडम चैकिंग कर सकते हैं । वे चाहें तो सिंगल बैग भी चैक कर सकते हैं । तो जो भी सामान दिया जाता है वह चैकिंग करके दिया जाता है । यह आपरेशन बहुत बड़ा है । आनरेबल मबर तो खुद किसानों के नुमाइंदे हैं, वे जानते हैं कि कितना बढ़ा एक्सटेंसिव आपरेशन है प्रोक्योरमेंट से

लेकर डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन तक । सारे हिन्दुस्तान में 3 लाख 37 हजार फेयर प्राइस शाप्स हैं । इसलिये मैं यह तो नहीं कह सकता कि कहीं डेफिशियेंसी नहीं है, या कमियां नहीं होंगी, ह्यूमन फेल्योर हो सकते हैं, शिकायतें भी आती हैं फेयर प्राइस शाप्स के बारे में लेकिन ओवर आल फीलिंग मेरी यह है कि चन्द डेफिशियेंसी के बावजूद भी हमारा प्रोक्योरमेंट आफ फूडग्रेन और उसको लोगों तक पहुंचाने का काम डबल परपज सर्व करता है । यह नीक है जिससे किसानों और कज्यूमर्स दोनों को फायदा होता है ।

श्री वीरेंद्र वर्मा : माननीया, मैंने पूछा था कि जो फूडग्रेन्स या सामान दिया जाता है उसका वेट और क्वालिटी का चैकिंग करते हैं या नहीं? मैंने प्रोक्योरमेंट के बारे में नहीं पूछा है । मैं फेयर प्राइस शाप्स के बारे में नहीं कह रहा हूं ।...

श्री एच०के०एल० भगत : मैंने आप को ज्यादा उत्तर दे दिया जो आपको अच्छा नहीं लगा । मैंने पहले ही सब बातों का उत्तर दे दिया था । जो चीज हम इश्यू करते हैं उसके वेट को, उसकी क्वालिटी को दोनों को चैक करके दिया जाता है । एक इंस्ट्रक्शन आज मैंने दी । मैं खुद ही बता रहा हूं कि जो शुगर बैग्स आते हैं फैक्टरीज से उनको भी चैक करके दिया जाय क्योंकि वे रोल होकर एक स्टेंडर्ड के नीचे आती है । इसलिये उनमें कम पाया जायेगा तो कानूनी कार्यवाही की जायेगी ।

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Madam Deputy Chairman, while replying to this question, the Minister has said that there is no discrimination in supplying the foodgrains to the fair-price shops. In this conection, may I know from the Minister whether inferior quality of foodgrains which is unfit for human consumption is also being supplied by the Food Corporation of India to the fair-price shops? May I also know from the Minister whether there is nay official machinery to ensure that the foodgrains which are supplied to the fair-price shops by the Food Corporation of India are supplied to the consumers? What is the method which they are adopting to check these defects? May I know whether these fair-price owners are in collusion with the inspecting authorities? How many such cases have been found out? How many of them have been punished? What preventive measures Government propose to take to prevent such malpractices because...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: This is an important question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, it is important, but there is some limit. You have already exhausted your time.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: We found many fair price shops are selling inferior quality of foodgrains like rice, wheat, sugar and edible oils. May I know what steps the Government is taking to check adulteration of foodgrains?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Madam Deputy Chairman, I really do not know how many questions the hon. Member has asked. All the same I will do my best to answer him and will not grudge the manner in which he has put the questions. It is all right. He is within his own rights. Now what I wish to say is that...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Some of them you have already replied. Now you reply only those questions which you have not replied earlier. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: These are important questions which I have put. Let the

Minister answer these on the floor of the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has already replied some of the questions.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: This is a forum wherein grievances of the people are indicated. He has to reply all my questions. People will not hesitate to agitate against these malpractices.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: In regard to action, at the moment, the question relates to Delhi. I am giving him some figures relating to Delhi regarding the action taken. In the year 1987, the number of raids they have conducted in Delhi is 1072 and the departmental action has been taken in 715 cases. In seven cases, F.I.R. have been lodged. This is the figure from 1.1.87 to 31.7.87. 16 fair price shops have been cancelled. This is the information given by Delhi Administration so far as action taken in Delhi is concerned and there are arrangements for checking up foodgrains there. Now, the process involves first procurement, then it goes to the F.C.I. godowns, then the State Corporations take it and give it to the fair price shops. So, there are various stages.

So far as F.C.I. is concerned, precautions are taken to see that the foodgrains supplied are of standard quality. The use of expression substandard can mean many things. When I talk of satisfactory foodgrains, it means satisfactory according to the standards prescribed by the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and this is seen, precise standards are there and it is given according to that. The Food Corporation of India is also amenable to the provisions of the Act.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like to ask a question on three points. Number are, inspection has to be done at the godowns of F.C.I. When it is said it is State Government, then at the godowns of the State Government and thirdly at the Fair Price Shops. Madam, you had been a Minister of Food and Civil Supplies in Maharashtra and you also know it. We always receive several complaints regarding mixing of stones and bhusha in the foodgrains supplied by the ration shopkeepers and the ration shopkeepers always say that this is what we have received and he is tempted to add something in that and consumers are being exploited in this way. For that purpose, I would like to know from the Minister whether Government want to have an independent agency at all the three points to check random supplies of the foodgrains, one at the godowns of the FCI, secondly at the State Government godowns and at the State Government godowns, the representatives of the ration shopkeepers should also be associated so that they cannot say that this is what we have received. If this is done, I am sure, whatever malpractices are going on can be checked to a great extent. In view of the present drought situation, we have to see that foodgrains reach the consumers in full and there is no wastage in between. I would like to know whether the Government is thinking to have an independent agency at all three points so that these problems can be solved.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Madam Deputy Chairman, I am grateful to the hon. Member for raising these questions. I do not know what was the position when you were the Food and Civil Supplies Minister in Maharashtra. I know the position now as to what are the arrangements here.

Sometimes the fair price shops dealers may say, well, I got bad stuff from the Food Corporation of India or the Civil Supplies Corporation. The Food Corporation may

say, we are giving good stuffs and he has changed it, replaced it, the chances of replacement are there. Then chances of replacement are there in the Food and Civil Supplies Corporation godowns also. Sometimes, there is wastage in transit also. So many things happen. Precisely we said, therefore, that at the level of the Food Corporation godown, representatives of the State Government should come and check them if they wish to check at random. Secondly, joint sampling has been done and thirdly if they want to check any bag, they can do so. Now, the hon. Member is giving suggestion whether the representatives of the fair price shop owners should be associated with that; that is a matter which I would certainly be prepared to consider in consultation with the State Governments. I think it is a good suggestion. If these organizations and their representatives want to associate themselves, there is nothing wrong in that. In fact, so far as issuance of foodgrains to the consumers is concerned, the Government of India have suggested to the State Governments that they should have some kind of Vigilance Committee at the level of every fair price shop including fair price shops in rural areas. Some State Governments have done at the level of Division, District, Tahsil and Village levels, they have actually not gone. I would like to tell hon. Members belonging to different States that we are constantly in touch with all the State Governments and we have written to them more than once. The general impression which the State Governments, the Chief Ministers, have given us, almost from the entire country, is that their distribution system is working well.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Madam Deputy Chairman, we in Kashmir do not take loaves of bread. But 'chot' or 'chuchawor' is used by all the people, including the elite, for tea in the afternoon or in the morning. There has been a controversy, lately, in Kashmir that F.C.I. has given rain-soaked wheat to mill owners who, in turn, give it to the consumers. It is like chewing gum and hazardous to health. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether F.C.I. supplies rain-soaked wheat to the flour mills. If they do not supply how do the flour mills get it?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I would like to tell the hon. Member that F.C.I. did not procure any rain-soaked wheat, nor did it supply to the mills. Mills might have purchased the wheat from some farmers. Let us understand the plight of the farmers in Punjab and Haryana, particularly in Punjab. The wheat has lost its lustre; otherwise, the wheat was quite good. According to the F.C.I. standards, we could not and we did not purchase it. Some miller might have purchased it at a low price and used it. So far as that is concerned, that was purchased directly by them from the farmers and used by them.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: In Kashmir, there is a lot of controversy about the flour which turns into chewing gum which is hazardous to health. This has become a political controversy there. I am grateful to you to know that the F.C.I. does not supply that. You do not supply the F.C.I. does not supply. But still the flour mill owners get the wheat. How do you check this hazard?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I quite understand the anxiety of the hon. Member. I tell him with the utmost respect that if 'atta', or anything for that matter, which is substandard, or which does not conform to the standards under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, is sold, the mills can be proceeded against. There is no problem. If there is any bad bread which suffers from lack of quality, action can always be taken. I think the State Government is already taking action. But, when the quality is good, we

should not grudge. Imagine the plight of the farmers who are reduced to this position. Where the wheat has lost its lustre only but the quality is good, if the millers have purchased that stock which is not harmful to health, we shoud appreciate that the farmers are helped.

श्री शांति त्यागी : महोदया, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हू कि एफ० सी०आई० के जो गोडाउन्स हैं, चाहे वे सरकारी हों या किराये पर लिये गये हों, इनमें हर साल रख रखाव और स्टोरेज की कमियों और खामियों की वजह से कितना अनाज खराब होता है और इस नुकसान को रोकने के लिये सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाये हैं ?

श्रीएच०के० एल० भगत : यह प्रश्न तो दिल्ली के बारे में है । आपने पूरे एफ० सी०आई० के बारे में सवाल पूछ लिया ।

श्री शांति त्यागी : सवाल तो फूड कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया के बारे में है ।

श्री एच० के० एल० भगत : कितना नुक्सान होता है, मेरे पास उसकी फीगर इस वक्त नहीं है । लेकिन नुक्सान को रोकने के लिये बहुत से स्टेप्स लिये जाते हैं । चाहे कारपोरेशन के गोडाउन्स हों या दूसरे किराये के लिये गये हों, इनमें कई स्टेप्स लिये जाते हैं जिसकी मेरे पास फीगर्स मौजूद हैं । अगर आनरेबल मेम्बर चाहेंगे और नोटिस देंगे तो उनको इन्फार्मेशन दी जा सकती है ।

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Madam Deputy Chairman, I tend to agree with the Minister that there is no discrimination in supplies. In fact, supplies of inferior and deteriorated quality is absolutely indiscriminate. My questions are: (a) Through checking before lifting, what fraction has been discovered to be sub-standard; (b) after delivery, through checking by any agency what fraction is discovered to be sub-standard? I want to formulate my next question. Mr. Jagesh Desai put it, but you have not answered it. The question is not about the agreement between the States and the Centre about the supervision of supplies in the godowns. The question is from the consumers angle and not the shopkeepers' angle. Why don't you have consumers in the Supervisory Committee for each of the godowns and request them to check at the point of delivery? Their certificate can be treated as a genuine one. I think we should try this route so that if after delivery, there is anything bad in distribution or at the final point, then we can corner that particular shopkeeper and say that this has been certified and you have done something. Are you agreeable to this suggestion?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Madam, I have already replied to this question. Arrangements for checking by the representatives of the State Governments are already there. If it is a question of associating consumers with that inspection, I am prepared to consider this in consultation with the State Governments. I am prepared to consider this suggestion of including the non-officials in consultation with the State Governments. I am prepared and I will write to the State Governments and get their reaction. After that I will take a decision.

As far as supplies to the consumers are concerned, it is a very important thing. I have requested all the State Governments including the West Bengal Government to put up supervisory committees to check these shops. Regarding supplies, my impression is that the West Bengal Government is happy with us.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : श्रीमन्, एक एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय है, इसलिये इस पर आफ एन आवर डिसकशन की अनुमति आप दें ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : मैं इसका समर्थन करता हू ।

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I also want to put a question.

SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Madam, recently on the 14th of last month, I happened to attend the Advisory Council meeting in Assam. There, all the young tribals MLAs, 12 Members, from reserved seats raised one question. It was about the supplies of nutritious food to tribal students in the tribal areas instead of bad quality of foodgrains which are unfit for consumption. Even the pigs won't eat them. Now, that type of food will be harmful to the children and the tribals. I feel that there is discrimination. I want to know whether Government have given a thought to it.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Madam, I shall be very glad to take action in a drastic way if the information is given to me. I would be very happy to make arrangements so that some hon. Members of this august House can go and see things for themselves. I admit that there is scope for improvement. I don't say that the whole thing is perfect. I say that better enforcement is needed. I also feel that distribution system needs to be tightened, improved and strengthened by better enforcement. That is my view also. I shall make arrangements and I shall be most grateful if the hon. Members can come and visit the godowns to see things for themselves.

Desalination plant in Ramanathpuram District

*264. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALASAMY:†

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have cleared the proposal for the setting up of a Desalination plant in Ramanathpuram District;

(b) if so, what is its exact location and the amount required for the same;

(c) whether the Central Government have released/sanctioned any amount for the same; and

(d) if so, by when the whole project is expected to be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. The erstwhile Ministry of Works & Housing cleared the proposal for setting up of 2 Desalination Demonstration plants in Ramanathapuram District in 1984.

(b) and (c) The 2 Desalination plants, are located at Melakodumallur village and Nochivayal Village respectively, in Ramanathapuram District. The estimated cost of Rs. 3 lakhs for each plant was sanctioned and released by the erstwhile Ministry of Works and Housing.

(d) The Desalination plant at Melakodumallur village was commissioned in January, 1985 and the plant at Nochivayal was commissioned in April, 1985.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam, I am surprised at the statement of the honourable Minister. When the Tamil Nadu Government has stated that the cost of the project is Rs. 21 crores and that they have also got Rs. 2 crores cleared by the Central Government, the Minister comes here and gives this statement saying that only Rs. 3 lakhs has been cleared. I want to know which statement is correct, whether the statement of the Tamil Nadu Government or the statement of the Minister.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri V. Gopalsamy.